

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is responsive to the non-final Office Action dated September 18, 2006.

Claim 1 has been clarified by a non-limiting amendment suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 5, 6, 36, 37 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Mizohata et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,958,113). Claims 36-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ting et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,997,712) in view of Starinshak et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,100,517). Claims 1, 4, 9, 10 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ting et al. in view of Schaer (U.S. Patent No. 4,324,623) and Dordi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,258,220). Claims 3 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ting et al. in view of Schaer, Dordi et al. and Starinshak et al. Claims 5-8 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Starinshak et al. in view of Mizohata et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,958,113).

Independent claims 1, 9, 36, 37 and 38 have been amended to include details of the cartridge, as described in original claim 4, as well as in the specification at page 79, lines 23-24; page 87, lines 5-12; page 89, lines 12-25; and Fig. 13. Claim 4 has been canceled.

Non-elected apparatus claims 13-16 and 23-35 have also been canceled.

As a result of the above-mentioned amendments, each of the independent claims except claim 5 includes the following limitations:

wherein the copper dissolution tank comprises a cartridge accommodating therein the copper supply source, and having a plating liquid inlet port for introducing the plating liquid, and a plating liquid outlet port for discharging the plating liquid, the cartridge being detachable from the plating apparatus; and

wherein the cartridge includes an outer pipe comprising a side wall thereof, one end of the outer pipe being closed, and a connection member for connecting pipes to the plating liquid inlet port and plating liquid outlet port being connected to an end opposite from the one end of the outer pipe.

These features are not taught by the prior art. They enable easier replacement of the cartridge without leaking of the plating liquid.

For example, the replenishment cartridge 30 disclosed by Ting et al. is inserted into the canister 29, which is not detachable from the system as now claimed. Thus, the plating liquid will leak (or spill) when the replenishment cartridge 30 is replaced.

Further, new claims 41 and 42 are being added. Claim 41 recites the cartridge features mentioned above. Claim 42 is supported by page 79 line 23 to page 80 line 4; page 87 lines 5-17, and Fig. 13 of the specification.

For the foregoing reasons, claims 1, 3, 4, 9-11, and 36-42 should be allowed.

Claims 5-8 (as well as claims 36, 37 and 39) were rejected over U.S. 6,958,113 (Mizohata et al.) whose filing date, January 17, 2003, is later than the priority dates of both of the priority applications of the present application. Enclosed is a translation of one of the priority documents for the present application (Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-374790, filed December 25, 2002), which supports claims 5-8, and a signed Verification of Translation. The rejection of claims 5-8, 36, 37 and 39, should therefore be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, allowance of claims 1, 3-11 and 36-42 is requested.

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JAF:lf

Respectfully submitted,



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